

Advisory Committee on Trauma  
Minutes  
February 20, 2002

**ATTENDING:**

Dr. Paul Harrison, Dr. Scott Sellers, Dr. Craig Concannon, Dr. Dennis Allin, Tim Pitts, Jack Shearer, Pamela Kemp, Pat Dowlin, Mark Bradford, Darlene Whitlock, Lois Towster, Robert Orth, Connie Meyer, Roger John, Jeff Strickler and Walt Regehr, Jr.

**ABSENT:**

Kerry McCue, Warren Hixson, Ms. Nancy Brown, Senator Susan Wagle, Senator David Haley, Representative Garry Boston and Representative Judy Showalter

**Minutes:**

Dr. Harrison called the meeting to order. Minutes from the November 20, 2001 meeting were approved as written.

**Kansas Burn Registry:**

Elena Nuss, Assistant State Fire Marshall gave a brief report on the current status of the Kansas Burn Registry. Legislation was passed in 1986 and amended in 1988 requiring that all second and third degree burns covering 20% body surface area would be a reportable condition to the office of the State Fire Marshal. Any medical provider practicing in Kansas is now required to submit a report on burn patients that met this criteria. The initial intent was to identify arsonist as they are often burned in the process of starting fires. Reporting to the state burn registry has been spotty at best and the fire marshal's office would like to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. The potential for duplication of efforts between trauma registry reporting and burn registry reporting was discussed. Elena indicated that they would be interested in working with the trauma registry program in avoiding duplication of efforts for hospitals.

The trauma registry subcommittee will evaluate the data points collected by both registries and make a recommendation on registry reporting. Lois Towster is chairperson of the registry subcommittee and will report their recommendations at the next meeting.

**Trauma Registry:**

The Kansas Collector trauma registry training began December 2001 in Wichita with three trauma hospitals participating in the first training. Another training class is scheduled for February 21-22, 2002 in Topeka. There are 9 hospitals that will be participating; Stormont-Vail, St. Francis, Topeka, Salina, Hays, Manhattan, Newton, Dodge City, El Dorado, McPherson.

Melissa and Darlene provided a progress report on deployment of the trauma registry. Their written report is attached including the results of a survey sent to all hospital administrators regarding their level of interest in participating in a trauma registry.

Lou Saadi discussed a policy statement drafted to address use of trauma registry data. See attached document. The purpose of this document is to facilitate use of trauma registry data collected by hospitals and downloaded to the state central registry. There was discussion regarding HIPPA regulations and Lou stated that trauma registry data used for public health purposes would be in compliance. Hospitals will need to include a one sentence disclosure in their general consent form regarding the collection of trauma registry data. It is a requirement of the trauma legislation that there be a process by which patients are notified of any data collected. This is currently being done by several hospitals as part of their general consent form upon admission. It is not a separate document.

There was discussion as to the best way to provide assurances to the hospitals implementing the registry software regarding technical assistance and support from Collector. The contract for the registry software is between the state and collector with annual renewals for 5 years. Several of the hospitals have asked what their liability is if the state should not renew their contract. It was suggested as part of the software distribution, a letter from the state be provided to the hospitals outlining the contractual agreement with Collector for providing the hospitals technical assistance and support. It was stated that some hospital staff are finding it difficult to believe that the state is providing software and support free of charge.

Five of the core data points downloaded to the state registry were discussed. These five points are highlighted on the policy statement. Concern was expressed that the reimbursement charges may not be accurate as there is often a delay between the time of billing and actual payment. Lois reported that in training provided by TRACs, they stated that this information should not be collected until after six months post discharge. She has developed a system by which she inputs the information after this time period.

There was discussion regarding the wording of the data points related to “complications”. It was decided that this word would be changed to more accurately reflect the data points being collected which are “non-injury related diagnosis.” It was suggested that the wording on level 1 activation also be changed as this was also confusing. The recommended changes will be made.

#### **Trauma Education Contract:**

The trauma education contract award was made to the “Consortium for Improvement of Trauma Education”. The consortium is made up of the following organizations: Kansas Hospital Association, Kansas Medical Society, Kansas State Nurses Association, and Region III, EMS. Tom Sipe with the Kansas Hospital Association will be coordinator for the project. The official award was made the first of January, 2002. Tom provided an overview of their proposal to the committee.

The consortium has met once since the award was made and it is expected that they will meet again in February to finalize their plans for providing trauma education as outlined in their proposal. Representatives from the consortium will be making their recommendations for class locations based upon need in the rural and underserved areas of the state.

Dr. Harrison said he and the other ATLS instructors in the state would provide whatever support was needed in providing the two ATLS programs. Tom will follow up with Dr. Steve Smith, State ACS chairperson.

Connie Meyer shared with the group that there is some interchangeability between BTLS and PHTLS. She would like to look at supporting BTLS classes next year when the contract is up for renewal.

### **Regional Trauma Council Update:**

We are proceeding with the timeline for development of the regional trauma councils as distributed at the last meeting. The SW regional meeting was held in Hays on Feb. 15 with over 52 of the 75 nominations attending the meeting. We had Dr. Harrison, David Lake, Linda Frazier, Deborah Whitmer, Darlene Whitlock and Rosanne Rutkowski as facilitators for the meeting. Please see attached for a copy of the people elected for executive office. Dr. Concannon asked about the activities of the regional councils after being established. It is expected that they will need to put by-laws in place as one of their first steps. KDHE is considering viable options for providing support to the RTCs.

The next meeting is scheduled for the SW in Garden City on March 28, 2002 at 1:30. Letters have been sent to all hospitals, EMS services and health departments. It was reported that response from this region has been slow with only two hospitals sending in nominations. KDHE has been following up with phone calls to encourage participation. Dates for the other regions are: SC to be held in Wichita April 24<sup>th</sup>, SE on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Parsons, and the NE will be held June 20<sup>th</sup> in Lawrence.

### **Regional Injury Prevention Activities:**

Kendra Tinsley, KDHE regional injury prevention coordinator shared information from the Kansas Safe Kids Coalition and the KDHE injury prevention program. SAFE Kids currently has 70 statewide and regional organizations and businesses that have joined together with the goal of reducing unintentional injury in Kansas children ages 0-14. SAFE Kids prevention activities overlap into the trauma area. Kendra shared with the group that they were able to secure community grant funds to address childhood injury prevention targeted toward three areas most in need in this state; motor vehicle crashes, drowning and fire/burns. In order for the injury program to be eligible for the federal grant funds, in-kind matching was provided by the KDHE trauma program. It is anticipated that applications will be distributed to Safe Kids and the two established RTCs by the first of March with notice of award by April 1. It is anticipated that only one project will be funded in each of the 6 RTCs with priority given to those who demonstrate collaboration between organizations. Ideally, the trauma registry would provide data by which to evaluate effectiveness of the projects. The funding will go up to \$40,000 next year to be split among the six regions for childhood injury prevention.

Kendra also discussed Ford's Boost America program which provides vouchers to parents for booster seats from Toys R Us. In addition, General Motors has provided Kansas through SAFE Kids a specially marked mini-van which is used at community events to provide parent education and training on proper installation of child safety seats. Kansas has made an application through

national SAFE Kids for placement of a second van in Wichita.

**Trauma Needs Assessment:**

Rosanne, David Lake, Kerry McCue, Sherry Davis, Dr. Allin and Darlene Whitlock met as a subcommittee on February 1 after the Board of EMS meeting to complete the Trauma Needs Assessment. Copies were provided to the group and any suggested changes should be submitted to Rosanne prior to the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. In January, we received notice from the feds that they were also requesting a second survey to be completed regarding disaster preparedness. David Lake, Rosanne Rutkowski and a representative from the Adjutant General's office completed it. Those parts of the survey relating to hospital preparedness were forwarded to KHA for completion.

**Board of EMS Update:**

David Lake gave an update as to legislative issues he has been monitoring this session. Budget issues are critical for the Board of EMS. He provided a summary of the bills he has been monitoring or has been directly involved with.

Due to budget constraints, the Board of EMS is planning on discontinuing support for the 800 and 400mhz communication systems.

There was discussion regarding emergency dispatch. Currently there is no standardized training or education program for dispatchers in Kansas. It was mentioned that this may be one area that we want to address in future years.

It was reported by David that the Rural EMS Summit sponsored by his office and KDHE was successful. Recommendations from the conference will be forthcoming.

The feasibility of sponsoring a statewide trauma conference was discussed. David suggested that a trauma focus could be added to their annual Pediatric symposium. The Pediatric Symposium is scheduled this fall in Wichita so it would be too late for this year. We may want to evaluate the possibility of a conference focused on statewide trauma issues.

**Other:** May is National Trauma Awareness Month. Rosanne is working with the Governor's office to have May proclaimed Trauma Awareness Month in Kansas. Dr. Harrison has agreed to be spokesperson with the Governor on the proclamation.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 29th, 2002